

Filed for intro on 03/06/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House No. HR0021
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to create a special House committee to study the production of tobacco and the development of alternative crops to tobacco.

WHEREAS, production of burley and dark tobacco has been an economic mainstay of Tennessee farms for over two (2) centuries; and

WHEREAS, 23,000 Tennessee farms raise over 62,000 acres of tobacco, returning \$259,000,000 to rural communities across this state; and

WHEREAS, sales of tobacco products generate \$307,000,000 of revenue in Tennessee for federal, state, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, foreign purchasers value tobacco grown in Tennessee and desire to purchase its high quality leaf; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of tobacco production as a strong component of the Tennessee economy will help both rural and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee farmers desiring to diversify their farm operations need to be aware of crop alternatives; and

WHEREAS, to enhance the agricultural economy of this state it is essential to strengthen tobacco production, while also seeking viable crop alternatives for farmers to embrace as the need arises; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, That there is hereby created a special House committee to examine ways and means to strengthen tobacco production in Tennessee and to examine ways and means to develop and market alternative crops to tobacco.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this special House committee shall be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) citizen members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, with one (1) citizen member being chosen from each grand division of the state. The citizen members shall be nonvoting members of the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That during the course of its deliberations, the committee shall study the following topics in addition to any other topics the committee deems relevant:

- (1) The role tobacco plays in Tennessee's economy;
- (2) Economic, social and political factors that influence the production and use of tobacco products;
- (3) Ways and means to increase the marketability of Tennessee's tobacco, including the marketing of Tennessee's tobacco to other countries;
- (4) Alternative cash crops that are both economically and technologically feasible for Tennessee farmers to produce; and
- (5) Ways and means to instruct Tennessee farmers in the growing, harvesting and marketing of alternative crops to tobacco.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That at the request of the chair, all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide staff assistance to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special House committee who are duly elected members of the 99th General Assembly shall remain members

of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from its membership a chair and vice-chair, and any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 99th General Assembly by March 1, 1996, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.